

BIRD LIVES ON A WARM DIET.

The Papabote That Devours the Spanish Fly Is Considered a Table Delicacy.

"You would scarcely suppose," said ex-Mayor Frank Holland, of Dallas, Tex., relates a Chicago exchange, "that a bird that fattened itself on an insect which will blister your flesh almost as quickly as the burning heat of a parlor match, would be much of a table luxury, but there is such a bird, and compared with it your woodcock on toast is commonplace. Few persons in the north ever heard of this bird, I guess, much less tasted one; but everyone knows Spanish fly."

"The bird is called a papabote, and folk who profess to be sharp on such things say it belongs to the plover family. It is about the size of the woodcock, with a sober, gray plumage and a short, hard bill. The coming of the Spanish fly upon the foliage in the localities it frequents is sudden and mysterious. No one knows whence it comes or whither it goes. It disappears as mysteriously as it comes. It is a most destructive insect, coming in countless myriads, and eats ravenously of growing things. But the papabote comes with it, stays until the fly disappears, and consumes millions of the pest. The birds grow so fat on this corrosive insect that they become literally balls covered with feathers. When they fall before the gun of the hunter they burst open like overripe fruit."

"The hunter who goes out with dog and gun expecting to fill his bag with papabotes after the manner of the scientific hunter will return without any. The papabote is the shyest of birds, and can be approached within gunshot in only one way, for, unlike all known game birds, it will not crouch to the dog. It is heavy of wing, keen of sight and hearing, and rises long before the hunter is in range, resembling in this respect your common meadow lark. It can be shot in no really sportsmanlike way, and only by using a horse and wagon. The bird will permit a horse to walk quite close to it, and the hunters take advantage of this and in open buggies and spring wagons ride about among the feeding grounds, and drop the birds as they rise on every side in easy range."

"The papabote is considered so much of a delicacy in Texas and Louisiana that small armies of men and boys make it highly profitable shooting the birds for market during its season. There is not a case on record, so it is asserted, of a person once eating of the Spanish-fly fattened papabote who did not have an unquenchable desire for more."

YELLOW MEN IN SIBERIA.

Chinese Are Said to Be Overflowing Into Asiatic Russia from All Points.

Recent investigations have shown that while the white emigration to Siberia has been considerable, it has been neither permanent nor beneficial. In 1899, according to a recent consular report, it amounted to 223,981 souls, but in the first six months of the same year over 59,000 returned penniless to Russia, having failed to find a livelihood. Those who remained are described as pauperized by their privileges and doing little or nothing to develop the country. On the other hand, the Chinese are everywhere overrunning the land. As the white man either objects to work altogether or requires excessive wages, Chinese labor has become a necessity. On all the public works it is employed, being paid less than half the price of white labor, says the Fortnightly Review.

In the wake of the workman comes the Chinese peddler, and even the Chinese merchant. The movement is fed by an immigration and colonization scheme founded by the Chinese government in Manchuria and Mongolia, which has proved far more successful than the similar Russian organization in Siberia. At one time it was thought that, owing to the facility with which the Russians consorted with Asiatics, the result of this immigration would be the Slavizing of the Chinese. It now seems more probable that the Chinese will absorb the Slavs. A very distinguished Russian traveler said last year that on the frontier the Russian colonists had already forgotten their own tongue, while in Irkutsk a pigeon Russian is freely spoken. "In short," he added, "while we Russians have been meditating the political conquest of China, the Chinese have begun the economic conquest of Siberia." The worst of it is that Russia has no remedy at hand, for she cannot exclude Chinese immigration without compromising the economic progress of Siberia and abandoning her friendly policy at Peking.

Have Insects Favorite Colors?

It has been asserted that insects are particularly attracted by the colors of certain flowers. Felix Planteau, after investigating the conduct of insects in their visits to various flowers, concludes that while they may perceive colors and thus be enabled to distinguish, at a distance, between flowers and leaves, yet they show no preference among the different colors. Blue, red, yellow, white are indifferent to them. He thinks that the odor of flowers affects insects more than their colors do. Youth's Companion.

Defining Good Government.

National prosperity is thus defined by an ancient Chinese authority: "When the sword is rusty, the plow bright, the prisons empty, the granaries full, the steps of the temple worn down and those of the law courts grass-grown, when doctors go afoot, the bakers on horseback and the men of letters drive their own carriages, then the empire is well governed."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

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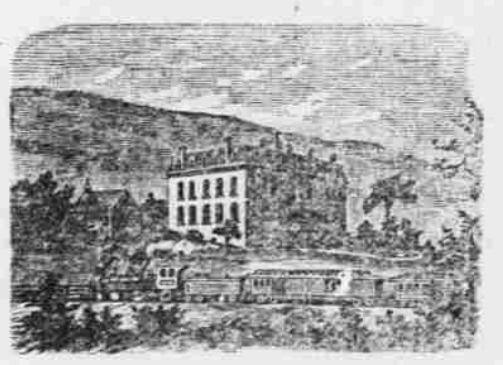
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What William J. Bryan Says.

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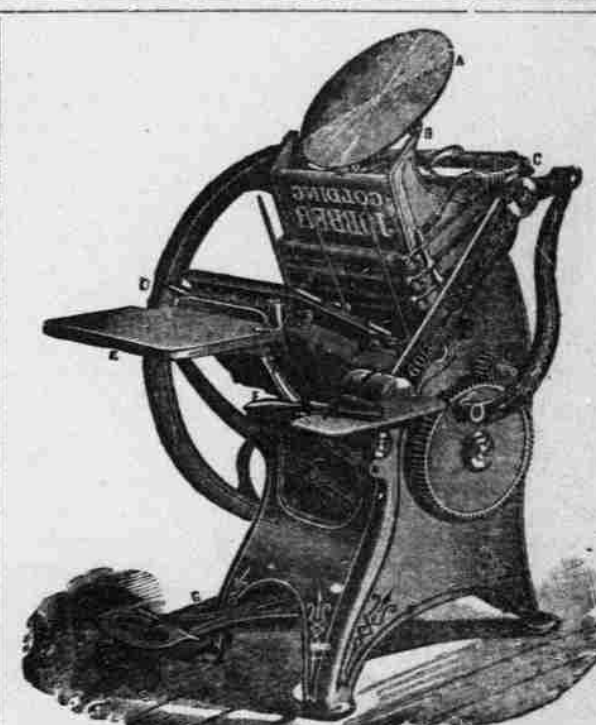
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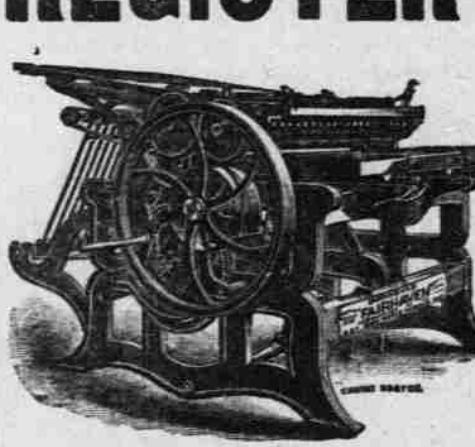
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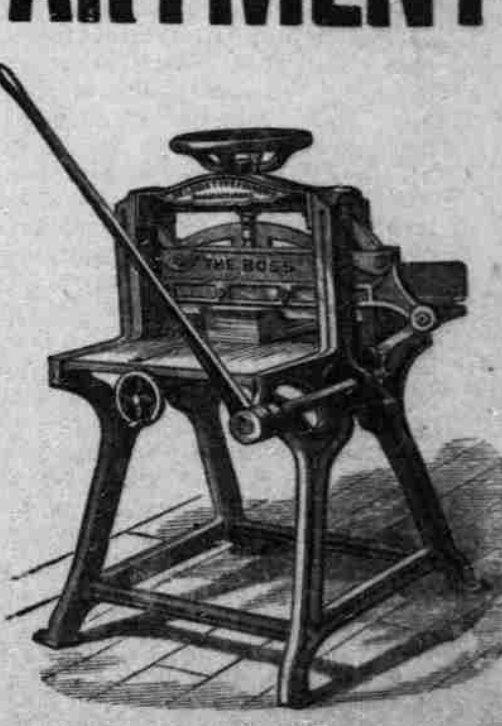


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